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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

VOL. XV.

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 19, 1900.

No. 42.

NOTICE.

Any person on the mailing list of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS who, at any time, fails to receive promptly this publication will confer a favor by notifying the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service.

UNITED STATES.

EXECUTIVE ORDER.

The chief quarantine officer of the Philippines to be detailed on the staff of the military governor with certain duties.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, D. C., October 10, 1900.

On and after October 15, 1900, there shall be detailed on the staff of the military governor of the islands of the Philippine Archipelago, as chief of the quarantine service established by Executive order of January 3, 1900, a commissioned officer of the Marine-Hospital Service, who shall, on the first day of each month, or at such other periods as may be directed by the military governor, submit to the military governor a detailed estimate of the quarantine expenses of the said islands of the Philippine Archipelago. After the approval of such estimate by the military governor the chief quarantine officer shall make requisition for the funds required in favor of the disbursing officer or agent of the Treasury Department, who shall pay the bills and vouchers on account of the quarantine service upon the certificate of an officer detailed under Executive order of January 3, 1900 (said order being still in force except as herein amended), and after approval by the chief quarantine officer. The disbursing officer or agent shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury as soon as practicable, and shall ren-

der his accounts of such disbursements in accordance with the rules and instructions to carry into effect the Executive order of May 8, 1899, relative to the military government of the United States in the Islands of the Philippine Archipelago during the maintenance of such government.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

[Under the above Executive order, P. A. Surg. James C. Perry, who has been temporarily acting as chief quarantine officer, has been duly detailed as chief quarantine officer of the Philippine Islands.]

SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THE PLAGUE AT OPORTO—VIABILITY OF THE PLAGUE BACILLUS IN SPUTUM—BY DR. MÉTIN, COLONIAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

[Translated by H. D. Geddings, U. S. M. H. S., from the Annals of the Pasteur Institute, for September, 1900.]

In addition to cases of primary pneumonic plague, which is always met more or less frequently, we frequently observe in plague complications which are revealed by auscultation as being attributable to broncho-pneumonia. In both conditions the sputum of patients contains a greater or less number of the bacilli of Yersin, which are revealed either by direct preparations, by cultivation, or most easily by animal inoculation. During the fastigium of plague broncho-pneumonia the bacilli of the sputum are quite as virulent as those isolated either from the blood or from the bubo; they produce death in mice in thirty-six to forty-eight hours, and in the guinea pig in three to four days.

The question therefore presents itself of determining how long the plague bacilli may be found in the sputum, and particularly if they preserve their virulence after the patient has entered upon convalescence. We can readily see the importance of this question, for if plague bacilli remain long virulent in the sputum of convalescents, we must take special precautions against one of the most dangerous methods of dissemination of the organism.

According to Gotschlich in the experiments which he made at Alexandria (*Zeitschrift für Hygiene und Infektionskrank.* XXXII, 3) virulent plague bacilli might be found in the sputum of convalescents from plague pneumonia, not only during the disease itself, but even twenty, thirty-three, and forty-eight days after complete defervescence. At Oporto we were able to study 8 patients who had recovered after having presented symptoms of plague pneumonia. Two of these patients were nurses who had contracted primary pneumonic plague while nursing in hospital patients who presented pulmonary complications in the course of an attack of the bubonic type of the disease. The six other patients had plague with buboes, situated either in the axilla or on the neck, and broncho-pneumonic symptoms declared themselves about the fourth day of the disease.

The sputum of these patients during the height of the disease, inocu-